

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USNATO 5962

USUN 318

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EO11652 NA

TAGS PFOR, GE

SUBJ GDR COMMITTEE OF ANTIFASCIST RESISTANCE FIGHTERS

REF: STATE 162284

1. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS TO CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON COMMITTEE OF ANTIFASCIST RESISTANCE FIGHEERS (KAW-KOMITTE DER ANTIFASCHISTISCHEN WIDERSTANDSKAEMPFER).

2. KAW WAS ESTABLISHED BY EAST GERMANS IN 1953 AS GDR SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION TO ALL-GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTIMS OF NAZI REGIME (VVN-VEREINIGUNG DER VERFOLGTEN DES NAZI REGIMES), WHICH APPARENTLY STILL OPERATES IN FRG AND WEST BERLIN. (EAST GERMANS PRESUMABLY FOUND JEWISH SOCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRATIC CAST OF VVN OBJECTIONABLE.) IN PAST KAW HAS

BEEN LOOSELY ORGANIZED AMALGAM OF RESISTANCE FIGHTERS AND NAZI VICTIMS, CONSISTING OF 15 COMMITTEES AT DISTRICT LEVEL AND NUMEROUS SUB-GROUPS AT COUNTY LEVEL. PARENT ENTITY IS ZENTRALLEITUNG DER ANTIFASCHISTISCHEN WIDERSTANDSKAEMPFER; CHIEF SECRETARY IS OTTO FUNKE, SED CC AND PEOPLE'S CHAMBER (VOLKSKAMMER) MEMBER. CHAIRMAN OF EAST BERLIN DISTRICT KAW IS FORMER STATE SECRETARY IN GDR INTERIOR MINISTRY, LT. GEN. (RET'D.) HERBERT GRUENSTEIN. RESISTANCE FIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES MAKE UP BULK OF KAW MEMBERSHIP BUT NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE FREE GERMAN YOUTH (FDJ) AND DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (DFD) ALSO PARTICIPATE IN KAW ACTIVITIES.

3. ON FEBRUARY 20, 1974 KAW ZENTRALLEITUNG ISSUED DIRECTIVES CALLING FOR REORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES AT DISTRICT AND COUNTY FOR REORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES AT DISTRICT AND COUNTY LEVELS IN ATTEMPT REVITALIZE ORGANIZATION SO IT COULD PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN GDR IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION EFFORT IN WAKE OF IMPROVEMENT IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS AND DETENTE GENERALLY. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES OF KAW PARTICULARLY AIMED AT EAST GERMAN YOUTH AND INTENDED TO DEVELOP A "SOCIALISTIC CONSCIENCE AND PATRIOTISM" AND REINVIGORATE POLITICAL MORAL UNITY OF THE PEOPLE." ALSO SED REGIME CLEARLY WISHED RAISE PROFILE OF ANTIFASCIST RESISTANCE IN GDR AT TIME WHEN EAST GERMAN PRESS CAMPAIGN DEPICTING FRG AS HAVEN FOR FASCIST ELEMENTS AND NAZI WAR CRIMINALS. KAW ACTIVITIES CONSIST PRIMARILY OF PUBLIC CEREMONIES, EXHIBITS AND LECTURES.KLEIN

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